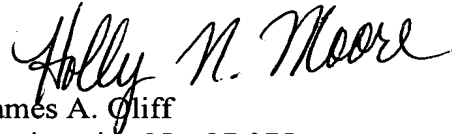


REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-12 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 13-24 are pending in this application.

In reply to the Restriction Requirement mailed on December 3, 2004, Applicants provisionally elect Group II, claims 13-24, without traverse. Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:HNM/kzb

Date: January 3, 2005

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